

IN THE DRAWINGS

Please replace the replacement sheet of drawing containing Fig. 2, as filed on July 2, 2002, with the attached replacement sheet which reverts to the original Fig. 2.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

Claim 4 has been canceled. Moreover, the amendment to the specification introduced on July 2, 2002 has been deleted. This is believed to overcome the rejection of Claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, and the objection to the specification. The specification has instead been amended to recite that the enlarged diameter portion may be a nut threaded onto the bolt shaft. Basis for this is found in original claim 4. Additionally, a new Figure 5 which reverts to the original figure is being submitted, and so the drawing objection is believed to be moot.

Claims 1 and 2 have been amended to recite that the enlarged diameter portion is “provided” on the shaft portion of the fastening bolt, and so is generic to both an integral enlargement and a nut threaded onto the bolt. Claims 1 and 2 have also been amended to recite that the enlarged portion of the fastening bolt is housed in the bolt hole when the enlarged diameter portion abuts the end of the sleeve opposite to the joint face. Basis for this is found in the figures. New Claims 5-6 recite that the diameter of the bolt hole of the first casing segment or half is enlarged at a portion having the internal screw threads as compared with the outer surface of the first casing half or segment which does not have the joint face. Basis for this is found in Figures 5-6.

The claims recite a fastening arrangement for a split casing comprising first and second casing segments or halves provided with tangentially extending bolt holes. This avoids the need for flanges to secure the casing halves but reduces the casing rigidity. The claimed invention permits reducing the diameter of the bolt holes, and so minimizing this problem, by the provision of a sleeve engaging the internal screw thread of the bolt hole. According to a further feature of the invention now recited in the claims, the enlarged portion of the fastening bolt is housed in the bolt hole when the enlarged diameter portion abuts the end of the sleeve opposite the joint face. It is therefore possible to reduce the diameter of the

bolt hole aperture at the outer surface of the casing, so that a reduction of the casing strength due to the presence of the bolt holes can be further minimized (page 17, lines 18-31).

Claim 1 has been newly rejected as being anticipated by German patent publication 196 05 068. However, it is noted that Claim 1 recites a fastening arrangement for a split casing comprising first and second casing segments provided with bolt holes forming a continuous bolt hole crossing joint faces of the casing segments "and extending tangentially in walls of both casing segments." This is clearly illustrated in the figures by the tangential bolt hole 7. There is no evidence in German '068 that the bolt holes 29, 30 extend tangentially, and so this reference does not anticipate Claim 1.

Claims 1 and 2 were again rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being obvious over prior art Figure 8 in view of the sleeve and nut shown in Fig. 1 of Swiss '458. Claims 1 and 2 now recite that the enlarged diameter portion of the fastening bolt is provided on the shaft portion of the fastening bolt such that the enlarged portion of the fastening bolt is housed in the bolt hole when the enlarged diameter portion abuts the end of the sleeve opposite the joint face. In contrast, the nut 6 in Fig. 1 of Swiss '458 is located entirely outside of the flange 3. Therefore, to the extent that one skilled in the art would have found it obvious to have drawn a teaching from Fig. 1 of Swiss '458 to provide a sleeve and a nut abutting the sleeve in the admitted prior art of Figure 8, Fig. 1 of Swiss '458 would suggest that the sleeve and nut should extend outside of the bolt hole. Claims 1 and 2 therefore define over any combination of the above references.

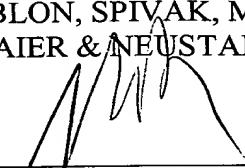
New Claims 5 and 6 further recite that the diameter of the bolt hole of the first casing portion or half is enlarged at a portion having the internal screw as compared with the outer surface of the bolt hole of the first casing portion or half which does not include the joint face. On the other hand, the diameter of the threaded bore in the flange 3 shown in Fig. 1 of

Swiss '458 is constant – there is no enlarged portion. For this reason as well, Claims 5 and 6 define over the prior art.

Applicants therefore believe that the present application is in condition for allowance and respectfully solicit an early Notice of Allowability.

Respectfully submitted,

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